(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The quantum of foodgrains lifted under all schemes for domestic consumption during first ten months of the year 2002-03 as compared to the same period during the previous year, is as follows:—

(fig. in Lakh tonnes)
(Provisional)

Year	
2002-03 (April, 02 to Jan., 03)	285.97
2001-02 (April, 01 to Jan., 02)	200.60

Procurement of foodgrains

226. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains stock with the Food Corporation of India;

(b) the quantum of foodgrains distributed through Public Distribution System in each State during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the quantum of foodgrains and the rate of purchase from the farmers in each State during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that the farmers complain of their agricultural produce being non-remunerative; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard and the measures initiated by Government to compensate the farmers, particularly in the areas affected by natural calamities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) As on 1.1.2003, 193.72 lakh tonnes of rice and 288.30 lakh tonnes of wheat were available in the Central Pool.

(b) Statements showing State-wise allotment and offtake of rice and wheat during the last three years are given in the Annexure (*See* Appendix 198 Annexure No. 3)

(c) A Statement showing State-wise procurement of rice and wheat for the last three years is given in the Annexure (*See* Appendix 198 Annexure No. 3).

The uniform Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of paddy and wheat at which these have been procured from the farmers in the last three marketing seasons are as under:—

(Rs. Per Qtl.)

Marketing Season	Paddy		Wheat
	Common	Grade-A	
1999-2000	490	520	550
2000-01	510	540	580
2001-02	530	560	610
2002-03	530*	560*	620

*Government has allowed payment of Special drought relief price of Rs. 20/- per quintal for paddy.

(d) and (e) The MSPs of major agricultural commodities fixed by the Government not only cover the cost of production but also provide for a reasonable margin as an incentive to improve production and productivity. The cost of production taken into account in fixing the MSPs covers not only paid-out costs but also imputed value of owned assets including land and family labour for which the farmers do not incur cash expenses. Hence, the MSPs are remunerative in nature. In case of natural calamities, the farmers are compensated by way of relaxation in uniform specifications, payment of drought relief. etc.

Subsidy for sugar industry

227. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of giving Ocean freight subsidy to boost sugar exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;